

probably, will change the whole character of our institutions. I trust in God that such is not to be the result. I will not say that Polk & his coadjutors design that it shall be, but they may have given to public sentiment a movement which they cannot control if they shall desire to do so.

Our only safety is in a change of rulers. Can this be accomplished? I do not put this question idly, for while I feel deeply the necessity of this change, I do not see, as clearly as I could wish, the probability of its accomplishment. The spirit of conquest in a nation is identical with that of acquisition in an individual, & like jealousy it grows on what it feeds - it is an appetite that has no surfeit. If this war is to be continued it can only be converted into an element of good by making it as burthensome to the people as possible - therefore, I say spend, spend, spend - levy taxes, impose contributions, preserve the subtreasury & make the people learn the truth that the government is taking money from their pockets at the same time that it is diminishing their ability to replace it. Vote the supplies asked, tax tea & coffee, & adhere to that greatest of democratic measures, the subtreasury with the specie clause, preserve Mr. Walkers ad valorem tariff, & those administering the government are doomed to the eternal hatred of the people. These are the views of one in the woods, but one who knows his relative position too well to believe for an instant that his crudities will be received by him to whom they are thus volunteered otherwise than as an honest expression of the feelings of one who in truth loves the institution's of his country & desires to see them perpetuated in their purity.

Permit me Sir, to congratulate you, as I do also the country on your reelection to the Senate of the U. S. & where I trust the last four years of the term for which you are elected will find you its presiding officer.

I hope you will take some fitting opportunity to expose the feebleness as well as the wickedness of this administration, a task that can be done by no one of your brethren in the Senate as effectively as by yourself provided you shall determine to undertake it.

Before closing I wish to say that I do not concur in the endorsement made by the *Courier & enquirer* of the Message.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>2</sup>James Watson Webb, the editor of the *New York Courier and Enquirer*, maintained that the Whigs should support the war with enthusiasm in order that they might not be considered unpatriotic. See his letter to W. P. Mangum, January 6, 1846.